

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**I. General**

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-19 stand allowed.

Claims 20-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 30-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of record.

The specification stands objected to as requiring updated information with respect to the current status of each of the referenced patent applications. Applicant has amended the "Reference to Related Applications" section of the specification to include updated information with respect to each of the referenced patent applications. Applicant has also corrected an informality wherein a serial number of one of the referenced patent applications was incorrect. Additionally, four paragraphs appearing within the body of the specification have been amended to include updated information. No new matter has been added.

II. The Art Rejections

Claims 20-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Brasington et al., United States patent number 5,923,406 (hereinafter *Brasington*). Claims 30-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brasington* in view of Kara, PCT publication number WO 97/14117 (hereinafter *Kara*). Although not acquiescing to the rejection of record, Applicant has canceled the rejected claims in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. Accordingly, the rejections of record are moot and will not be addressed herein. However, Applicant expressly reserves the right to resubmit the canceled claims at a later date.

III. Summary

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Application No.: 09/491,949

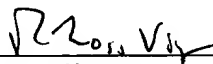
Docket No.: 61135/P004CP1CP1C1/10106025

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 61135/P004CP1CP1C1/10106025 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
R. Ross Viguet
Registration No.: 42,203
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2800
Dallas, Texas 75201-2784
(214) 855-8000
(214) 855-8200 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

The paragraph appearing at page 1, lines 2-15, has been amended as follows:

This application is a continuation of co-pending, commonly assigned, patent application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRINTING MULTIPLE POSTAGE INDICIA", serial number 08/965,015, now patent number 6,208,980, which itself is a continuation-in-part of co-pending, commonly assigned, patent application, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRINTING POSTAGE INDICIA DIRECTLY ON DOCUMENTS," serial number 08/561,417, now patent number 5,801,944, filed November 21, 1995, which itself is a continuation-in-part of co-pending, commonly assigned patent application, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRINTING PERSONALIZED POSTAGE INDICIA ON GREETING CARDS", serial number 08/540,658, now patent number 5,717,597, filed October 11, 1995, which applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein. Reference is hereby made to concurrently filed, co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent application entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," serial number [08/892,946] 08/965,069, now patent number 6,199,055, the disclosure of which application is incorporated herein by reference.

The paragraph appearing at page 9, lines 5-10, has been amended as follows:

The present invention further provides for a method and system, described in co-pending U.S. application serial no. 08/263,751, now patent number 5,606,507, and incorporated herein by reference, for automatically calculating the appropriate amount of postage for a piece of mail, printing that amount of postage and deducting the printed amount of postage from the total amount of postage stored within the portable postage storage device. In addition, the present invention allows the user to retrieve, select, personalize and print postage indicia.

The paragraph appearing at page 15, lines 19-24, has been amended as follows:

A preferred embodiment of the above described TMU button is disclosed in the co-pending commonly assigned, U. S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," previously incorporated herein by reference. This preferred embodiment includes a TMU button having a processor operating under control of a limited purpose operating code providing secure data storage and interaction.

The paragraph appearing at page 20, line 16, through page 21, line 3, has been amended as follows:

Alternatively, a pair of systems 10 may be linked together through public switched network ("PSN") 102, or other communication gateway such as the Internet or other computer network, via modem 101 or directly through digital telecommunications trunks or other communications links (not shown). Processor based systems 10 located at different U.S. Post Offices may be linked via PSN 102 in a conventional well known manner (such as through modem 101) so that information may be shared between the various Post Offices. Generally, a copy of the POSTAGEMAKER program will be stored within at least one processor-based system at selected U.S. Post Office locations. PSN linkage of processor-based systems 10 by the Post Office and the user will allow the sharing of information between the various Post Offices and will allow a user to call a number (an authorized Post Office number) and have the Post Office transfer the required amount of postage to a postage storage device 18 installed at a user site by modem. A preferred embodiment of a system and method for conducting transactions, such as that described above, is disclosed in co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL," previously incorporated herein by reference.

The paragraph appearing at page 30, lines 16-20, has been amended as follows:

A preferred method for conducting the above described transactions with the button is described in co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application, now patent number 6,199,055, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FAULT TOLERANT

TRANSACTIONS OVER AN UNSECURED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL,"
previously incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 20-36 have been canceled without prejudice.